

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Accumetric, LLC

#### Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

#### Accumetric Seals in Improvements with Lean Manufacturing

##### Client Profile:

Accumetric, LLC, located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, supplies sealants to over 2500 customers in more than 70 countries. Some of their products they manufacture directly, others they purchase in bulk from major domestic and overseas suppliers, then repackage in a variety of containers including cartridges, tubes, sausages, pipettes, bottles, jars and cans. Accumetric products are sold through distributors under the BOSS® and Dynatex® labels, as well as through private brand, contract or custom packaging arrangements. The company employs 120 people.

##### Situation:

As an ISO-certified company, Accumetric recognized that their products and services must be of the highest quality in order to satisfy customer expectations, so they were continually looking for ways to improve operations. Specifically, the company was interested in applying lean manufacturing techniques to their production lines in order to reduce or eliminate non-value-added activities, while at the same time reducing operating costs. Accumetric also looked upon this project as a stepping stone to provide employees with the tools to implement lean techniques in other areas of the facility and to sustain a continuous improvement initiative. The company contacted the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

##### Solution:

KMAC personnel helped Accumetric implement lean techniques on their production lines through creating a current state and future state value stream map. The KMAC team then followed up with 5S/visual controls and quick changeover training, as well as a series of kaizen improvement events designed to put the concepts learned into practical use on the floor. As a result, employees on the lines have improved flow, improved material management, reduced scrap, reduced changeover time, and improved the effective use of equipment. In the future, the company is looking forward to implementing similar improvements throughout the plant.

##### Results:

- \* Saved \$200,000 in costs.
- \* Invested \$100,000 in plant/equipment.
- \* invested \$20,000 in workforce practices/employee skills.
- \* Improved profit margin and increased revenue.
- \* Improved customer satisfaction.
- \* Improved organization and employee morale.

##### Testimonial:

[www.mep.nist.gov](http://www.mep.nist.gov)



NIST is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration

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"As a result of our lean implementation efforts, we are working less overtime, have reduced our changeover and startup times, and are consistently meeting our production goals. Our employees on the acetox line are more organized -- they understand the next step -- and eight months down the road, employees on other lines can see the results and are looking forward to the time when similar improvements can occur in their areas."

Joe Fowler, VP, Operations